

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 are pending in the subject application. In response to the Office Action dated July 3, 2007, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-26 define patentable subject matter.

In the Office Action, claims 24 and 26 were objected to under 37 CFR § 1.75(c) as being in improper form. By this Amendment, Applicant has amended each of claims 24 and 26 to be dependent on claim 1, thereby obviating this objection.

Claims 1-10, 13-16, and 19-26 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Jidosha et al (WO 03/055709). Further, the remaining claims 11-12, 17-18 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 as being obvious from Jidosha et al in view of Morisawa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,904,631).

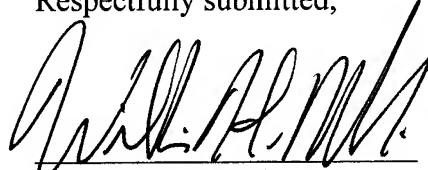
Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections under 35 USC § 102 and § 103 as the Jidosha et al reference is not prior art to the subject application. Specifically, the Jidosha et al reference was published on July 10, 2003, whereas the subject application claims priority to June 30, 2003 based on JP 2003-189115. Since the Jidosha et al reference is not prior art to the subject application, the rejections of record under 35 USC § 102 and § 103 should be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the objection and rejections of record, find pending claims 1-26 allowable, and place the subject application in condition for allowance.

If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'William H. Mandir', written over a horizontal line.

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